PHILOSOPHY 160-01
Philosophy of Science
MW 1:30 – 2:45 PM in BBC 222
Instructor: Harlan McGhan
GE Area R

In the 21st Century, it is far too late to give up science, but it is never too late to understand it better.

Modern science, beginning in the 16th Century, has brought us into a new geological epoch, the *Anthropocene*. Empowered by science and the technologies it enables, the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century not only has transformed human life beyond all recognition, but also has made human activity the dominant force reshaping the earth's surface and its surrounding environment.

The philosophy of science seeks to answer the most basic questions about science: What are the foundations of science? What is the world as pictured by science? What is the role of science in society? For example: How do we know if a scientific hypothesis or theory is true? What is the difference between science and pseudoscience? W hat does science tell us about reality (if anything)? Does science enforce values or does it destroy them? Can science coexist with faith?

PHIL 160: Philosophy of Science is a 15-week course exploring the most important questions about the most important activity ever undertaken by humans.

Weeks 1 - 5	Weeks 6 - 10	Weeks 11 - 15
The Lessons of History	**The Lessons of Logic**	**Contemporary Issues**
A survey of the origins and development of science, highlighting significant changes in understanding the nature of the material world, the nature of life, and human nature itself wrought by science.	A survey of the development of the Philosophy of Science in the 20th Century, from attempts to create a logical reconstruction of scientific truth, explanation, and prediction, to the claim that logic must be abandoned as useless.	A survey of issues attracting attention as the most significant for the 21st Century: e.g., the crises in physics. Does anything exist (Is it all just a simulation)? Or does everything exist everywhere all at once?